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SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT

REF: STATE 118192

1. Below is the text of a congratulatory message to President-elect Obama from Cecilia Ibru, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Oceanic Bank International Plc in Nigeria. The original letter will be sent via diplomatic pouch.

2. Text of letter:

"Congratulations.

On behalf of the Management and Staff of Oceanic Bank International Plc, I congratulate you on your election as the 44th President of the United States of America.

In your victory, we see a convergence of time and destiny, resilience, and resourcefulness, all factors that played a pivotal role in your historic election as the first Black President of the world's largest democracy.

We particularly admire and identify with your "yes we can" philosophy which has enamored your desire to be a change agent right from your days in Harvard Law School, your community work in Chicago and selfless service as a Senator representing the State of Illinois.

Coming at this time, your choice as the 44th President of the USA is clearly a manifestation of the grace of God that makes the most ordinary of men achieve extraordinary feat.

We at the Oceanic bank International Plc are very proud of you, and we pray for God's guidance for a successful tenure of office. We shall also be partners with your administration as you settle down to the task of rebuilding your nation and the entire world.

Please, accept our congratulations.

Yours Faithfully,

Cecilia Ibru
Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer"

SANDERS